

In the Drawings

Please amend each of Figs. 1, 2A-2B, 4A-4B and 7A-7C, and add new Fig. 5D, as indicated in the attached letter to the Official Draftsman.

Amend claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for cutting a window covering to a specified length comprising:

a base having a [top] substantially flat cutting surface;

a frame overlying said [top] cutting surface and mounted to said base, said frame and said [top] cutting surface defining a receiving area therebetween for receiving [said] a window covering;

a cutting assembly slidably mounted to said frame for sliding along a movement axis toward and away from said receiving area, said movement axis [being diagonal to said top] having a first component of movement extending in a direction substantially parallel to said cutting surface and a second component of movement extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to said cutting surface of said base;

a cutting blade connected to said cutting assembly, said cutting blade including a cutting edge facing said receiving area; and,

a driver connected and in engagement with said cutting assembly, wherein operation of said driver imparts sliding motion to said cutting assembly to move said cutting blade [diagonally through] along the movement axis toward and away from said receiving area.

2. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cutting blade [cuts said window covering to said

*a6*  
specified length when moving through] includes a cutting edge facing said receiving area.

*a7*  
4. (Amended) An ~~apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 3, wherein said one or more guide tracks [are angled with respect to said top surface of said base] extend in directions substantially parallel to the movement axis.

*a8*  
6. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said cutting ~~assembly~~ includes a rack having a plurality of teeth and said pinion includes a plurality of teeth at [the periphery thereof] a peripheral surface of said pinion, said pinion being matingly engaged with said rack so that rotation of said pinion imparts motion to said cutting assembly.

Cancels claims 9 and 10.

Amend Claims 11, 13-20, 27-28 and 30-33 as follows:

*a9c*  
11. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said [top] ~~cutting~~ surface of said base [having] has a first end and a second end adjacent said cutting blade. <sup>38</sup>

Claim 12, line 3, change "top surface" to -cutting surface--,

13. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said backup [includes] is made of nylon.

14. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said backup includes a bar extending across said second end of said [top] ~~cutting~~ surface.

15. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, said base including a guide rail at said [top] ~~cutting~~ surface of said base extending from said first end to said second end of said [top] ~~cutting~~ surface, said guide rail adapted for guiding movement of [said] a window covering across said [top] ~~cutting~~ surface [and aligning said window covering with said cutting blade].

16. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said guide rail has a longitudinal axis extending between said first and second ends of said [top] cutting surface, said guide rail being [which is] substantially parallel to [a longitudinal axis of said head rail and a longitudinal axis of said bottom rail] said cutting surface.

17. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein a portion of said guide rail at said second end of said [top] cutting surface is adjacent said movement axis [so that] of said cutting blade [passes] closely by said guide rail at said second end of said top surface while said cutting blade moves through said receiving area].

*A 10*  
18. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, said guide rail including a mandrel adapted for engaging [at least one of said] a head rail [and said] or a bottom rail of a window covering.

19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, said headrail including an opening at the top thereof, said mandrel being slidable within said opening.

*B*  
20. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim *A*, wherein said base includes a clamping assembly attached thereto for securing [said window shade] a window covering over said [top] cutting surface of said base.

*KC 11/10/00*  
*38*  
27. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [1] 24, wherein said cutting blade includes a first face which is substantially flat and a second face including said pocket.

*A 11*  
28. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [24] 27, wherein said pocket includes a tapered region extending from said cutting edge, said tapered region having a thickness which increases as the distance from said cutting edge increases

*A 12*  
30. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [28] 29, wherein said tapered region includes a second tapered